



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
10 W. JACKSON BLVD.
CHICAGO, IL 60604

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Gail Montenegro, INS
Marilu Cabrera, INS
(312) 385-1925

Friday, April 21, 2000

Mexican Nationals Sentenced for Document Fraud

Chicago, IL - Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, together with Scott R. Lassar, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced the sentencing of two Mexican nationals for purchasing 7,000 counterfeit documents from an undercover federal agent.

Fabian Ramirez, age 33, an illegal alien from Mexico residing at 2710 S. Kedvale, and **Miguel Martinez**, age 44, a legal permanent resident residing at 2424 W. Moffat, were sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Court Judge Milton Shadur to 24 months in prison each.

Working on a tip from the INS office in Los Angeles, the INS Document Fraud Task Force began an investigation of Ramirez, who was believed to be trafficking in counterfeit identity documents. An undercover agent from the Fraud Task Force contacted Ramirez, who expressed interest in purchasing a large quantity of blank green cards and Social Security cards. Ramirez met with the undercover agent in early September 1999, and plans were made for Ramirez to purchase 3,500 blank green cards and 3,500 blank Social Security cards with a street value of \$245,000.

On September 28, 1999, Ramirez met with the undercover agent at the Sleep Inn, 6650 S. Cicero, and paid \$1,900 for the counterfeit documents. INS agents arrested him as he was leaving the hotel. Also taken into custody was Miguel Martinez, who accompanied Ramirez to the hotel.

During a search of Martinez's residence at 2424 W. Moffat, INS agents discovered what is commonly called a "document mill," where more than 500 blank identity documents were found along with equipment used to manufacture such counterfeit documents.

"The INS is cracking down on criminals who manufacture and sell false documents," said INS District Director Brian R. Perryman. "Our Special Agents are out on the streets in Chicago to ensure that these documents do not get into the hands of this country's illegal workers."

###